

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 4 • Unit 3 • Week 3

CREATION VERSUS EVOLUTION

OBJECTIVE:

Our objective in this lesson is to show the total impossibility of evolution through mutations and natural selection. We'll also see what God proclaims to those who believe in evolution and reject Him as the Creator.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Hold up a small toy animal or picture of a person.

Ask: What is this?

Say: An animal/person is a living thing. You are a living thing. The earth is filled with living things.

Say: Once there was nothing at all. Close your eyes and cover them with your hands.

Ask: What do you see? Nothing? Now open your eyes.

Say: You see many created things. Books, tables, buildings and chairs are things that man has made.

Ask: Do you think these things could be made by themselves?

Ask: If you looked outside, what kinds of things would you see?

Say: Every living thing in nature is far more complicated than anything man can make.

Ask: Do you think that living things can happen by accident?

Say: Every living thing shows perfection in design. Living things are also incredibly complicated. Could living things happen by accident? Or must they be created by an intelligent Designer?

Perfection in living things require an incredibly intelligent Designer. God is the great designer of all that we see, even the things which we use to make the things we use very day. Today we will study how God must be the creator of living things. It is important to remember this because some people deny that God exists and that He is the creator and designer of living things.

BIBLE LESSON:

Say: The Bible gives us as a recorded historical fact showing that God created the heavens and the earth.

Do: Read Genesis 1:1-27. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep...."

Say: God also made many living things on the earth.

Ask: What is your favorite animal?

Ask: Do these animals show that there must be an animal designer?

Say: God's creation is the proof of His existence. But many people have chosen not to believe in God. They do not like to believe in God because they do not want Him to have authority over them and because they cannot see and measure God. They would rather believe that matter turns itself into living things without any intelligent design through a process called evolution. The theory of evolution is an explanation for how the universe and life came into existence without God. Evolution teaches that the universe began with a big bang and then gradually changed over time and became ordered into stars, planets and finally living things—all without intelligent thought, plan or design. Let's see why this does not make any sense.

Do: The following activity to illustrate that life requires a Life-giver.

Say: Most scientists profess a belief in evolution. The primary reason for this is that science assumes that nothing exists beyond what they can observe, measure or experiment with. Therefore, they do not include God as a source of life or design in nature. Scientists like to believe they can explain everything without resorting to God as the cause. Science assumes that there is no God. Evolution is just a story of how life could happen if you assumed there was no God. Scientific explanations of evolution are just interpretations based on the assumption of evolution. Evolution in action cannot be observed today. Nor can it be replicated by experiment.

Could life evolve? There are many problems with the theory of evolution. It requires many impossible things and belief in events that cannot be proved to have ever happened. The most popular theory of evolution is called neo-Darwinism that says living things began with single-cell life which then become increasingly advanced and complex through the process of natural selection and mutations. Critics of evolution have shown that success of such a process is

beyond mathematical possibility. The chances of all the pieces falling into place just right are as unlikely as a puzzle putting itself together! People who believe that God created all things understand that the complexity of life and all other things is too great to have occurred by chance events. There must be a great Designer for things that have great design. Let's see why.

Genes are the code of living things. Your body is made up of a vast number of little building blocks called cells. Each cell contains a vast number of microscopic genes which are like words. All the genes put together are like the words of an instruction book that controls what you look like and how you are. It is like a book that would describe how a car is built. All the words must be spelled correctly and be in the correct order to be understood. Evolutionists believe this code can be changed and improved by random changes in the genes called mutations which then produce better living things through natural selection. Let's discuss these two ideas. (We'll show why this cannot work, in a few minutes.)

Mutations are sudden changes in the genetic code. However, all such changes are a kind of damage that produce inferior offspring. Evolutionists believe there must be some positive ones that show up over time to produce an improved individual or species. However, an actual example of a positive mutation has not been shown to have happened.

Natural Selection is a process where those individuals who are the strongest or fittest will survive in a struggle for life and pass their superior genes to their children. Gradually, over much time, it is believed that species will improve and change to new species. It can be shown that natural selection does operate in the environment, but it cannot be shown to produce new species. Natural selection can only select from an existing genetic code. It cannot create new genetic codes. Actually, natural selection will eliminate mutated individuals because they are less fit. Natural selection tends to preserve a species—not create new species.

Ask: Is life a game of chance? Is it possible to create meaningful words, or genetic codes, by chance like evolutionists say?

Say: Let's play a simple game to show how difficult it is to produce meaningful words by chance.

Do: Write the words "in the beginning" on paper, chalkboard or white board.

Ask: What is the chance that you could pull from a bag the letter to form this simple phrase?

Do: Use letter tiles from a game of Scrabble. Place tiles (one for each letter in the alphabet plus a blank to represent the spaces between words) in a bag.

Have the students pull several letters out of the bag to try to spell the phrase from left to right. Write the letter chosen and return the letter tile to the bag. Try several times and see what kind of combinations you come up with.

Ask: Did anything even look like the words "in the beginning"?

Say: It is hard to produce a single, simple phrase by chance. Our chances of pulling the “i” out is 1 in 27 (because there were 27 tiles in the bag—one for each letter in the alphabet and a blank for the space between words). Our chances of pulling out the “i” first and then the “n” is 1 in 27×27 . To get “in” followed by the space would be 1 in $27 \times 27 \times 27$. That’s 1 chance in 19,683. The chances of building the whole phrase is 1 chance in 27^{16} (that’s 27 multiplied by itself 16 times—for each letter and space in the phrase and each letter in the alphabet plus two spaces). If you picked one tile per second, it could likely take 12 years before you’d get just the first two words, “in the.” To get the whole phrase, “In the beginning,” could take much longer—not just 15 billion years (the estimated age of the universe), but more than 150,000 times 15 billion years!

Whew! Wrap your mind around that! But the point is, it’s very unlikely you’d create a few simple words by chance. It takes intelligence to select the letters and put them in the correct order to mean something.

There are enough genetic “words” in the human instruction book located in each cell to fill 4,000 encyclopedia volumes.

The chance that mutations and natural selection could produce anything of any complexity is beyond any kind of reason.

If you find a book, there must be an author. If you find a car, there must be a car maker. If there is a person, there must be a maker of people. Only God could make a person.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Mutation Game.

Do: Take a letter (Scrabble tiles work great) for each letter of the alphabet plus a blank tile for spaces and put in a paper bag. There should be 27 tiles in all.

Spell the phrase, “In the beginning” on a large chart.

Create “mutations” by replacing letters in the phrase with a letter drawn from the bag.

Ask: Could you make a better phrase with chance changes in the letter order? Mutation theory says you could make a better phrase with chance changes in the genetic code. Let’s use our bag of tiles again. Each time we pull a tile, it will be like a mutation. Then let’s take our “mutated” tiles and try to improve on these words with these chance changes.

Do: Have students pull out tiles 16 times, writing down the letter and putting the drawn tile back each time.

Ask: Can we make a better phrase with these changes—these mutated tiles? Would you select any of the new words?

Say: Just like you would select the best spelled words, nature would eliminate the mutations and preserve species as they are.

CLOSING BIBLE READINGS:

Say: God speaks to those who doubt Him through His Word, the Bible. Psalm 53:1 states, "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'"

Do: Read the following and ask the children what the passages mean to them. Be prepared to give your explanation.

Isaiah 40:21-22 "Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in."

Job 38:4-7 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

Job 42:2 "I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You."

MUSIC:

Teacher's choice from the United Church of God hymnal (suggested: "Let All Things Now Living," page 90) or perhaps sing a creation song learned from Level 3.

MEMORY VERSE:

Psalm 53:1 "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'"

family activity

THE POINT:

Only God is the Creator; evolution is impossible.

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

During the week, read about some details concerning one of God's creations and explain how evolution would have been impossible. For example, read about the anatomy of the body, like the brain, the foot or a muscle; or read about flowers, or birds or animals—eating habits, parts of their bodies, etc. The more detail you get into, the more ridiculous evolution will seem.

Answer the following multiple choice questions:

- Genesis 1:1—in the beginning God created
 - a) the sea and the earth.
 - b) the heavens and the earth.
 - c) the water and the sky.
 - d) dry land and the birds.

- Psalm 53:1—The fool has said in his heart,
 - a) There is no God.
 - b) There is no help.
 - c) There is no evolution.
 - d) There are no mutations.

- Job 42:2—I know that You [God] can do
 - a) some things.
 - b) most things.
 - c) everything.
 - d) nothing.

- Job 38:4—Where were you when I laid the
 - a) foundations of the earth.
 - b) pillars of the temple.
 - c) posts of the fort.
 - d) table of the covenant.

MEMORY VERSE:

Psalm 53:1 "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'"